



DIVINE SERVICE



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
17th May, 2020

Service Order

Online Service available at www.lvlp.org

Art Source: layman.org



John 14 - Jesus' Farewell Discourse

LOCKYER VALLEY LUTHERAN PARISH

LAIDLEY, ROPELEY, LOCKROSE AND TABELL MINISTRY AREA

OPENING SENTENCE

P. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor, Alleluia,

C. the Spirit of truth to be with you forever. Alleluia! (John 14:16,17a NIV alt)

INVOCATION

P. We gather in the name into which we were baptised.

C. In the name of the Father and of the Son[†] and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN

AT 349 There is a Redeemer

Chorus

Thank you O our Father,
for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit,
till your work on earth is done

1/3

There is a Redeemer,
Jesus God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God,
Messiah, Holy one.

2/3

Jesus, my Redeemer
Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God Messiah,
O for sinners slain

3/3

When I stand in glory
I will see His face
And there I'll serve My King forever
In that holy place

CONFESSION of sins

P. Friends in Christ: let us confess our sins to God our Father, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us:

C: Lord God our Heavenly Father, I am a sinner and I have sinned against you, not only in my words and actions but also my secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully know or understand, but which you know completely. I am sorry that I have displeased you and repent of all my evil. For the sake of your dear Son. Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, forgive me, and graciously help me in my weakness. Amen.

FORGIVENESS of sins

P. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, He loves us, and has given His Only Son to die for us, So, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and the Son [†] and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you.

C. Amen

SHARING THE PEACE

Since we have peace with God through the forgiveness of our sins, let us share

that peace with each other. The peace of the Lord be with you!

♪ LORD HAVE MERCY

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy...

♪ PRAISE

1/3

Praise to God who reigns on high;
Peace on earth to men he loves.
We praise and thank and worship You,
Lord our God, our heavenly king,
God the Father, mighty one.

2/3

Only Son, Lord Jesus Christ,
Lamb of God, the Father's Son,
You take away the people's sin;
You that sit at God's right hand,
Hear us and have mercy, Lord.

3/3

You alone are holy, Christ,
Only you are Lord of all;
For, with the Spirit, You alone
Share the Father's glory, Christ.
Praise the Lord most high! Amen

GREETING

P. The Lord be with you

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray that we love one another:

C: Jesus, our loving friend and Saviour, you have promised to give us your Spirit to be with us forever. Stay within our hearts, so that we love one another as you have love us. For you live and are reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

Paul in Athens

After the reading:

L. This is the word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 66:8-20

8. Praise our God, all peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard;

9. he has preserved our lives
and kept our feet from slipping.

10. For you, God, tested us;

- you refined us like silver.**
11. You brought us into prison
and laid burdens on our backs.
 12. You let people ride over our heads;
**we went through fire and water,
but you brought us to a place of abundance.**
 13. I will come to your temple with burnt offerings
and fulfill my vows to you—
 14. vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke
when I was in trouble.
 15. I will sacrifice fat animals to you
**and an offering of rams;
I will offer bulls and goats.**
 16. Come and hear, all you who fear God;
let me tell you what he has done for me.
 17. I cried out to him with my mouth;
his praise was on my tongue.
 18. If I had cherished sin in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened;
 19. but God has surely listened
and has heard my prayer.
 20. Praise be to God,
**who has not rejected my prayer
or withheld his love from me!**

**Glory to the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forevermore.
Amen**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3: 13-22

Suffering for doing right

After the reading:

L. This is the word of the Lord

C. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C. Alleluia

P. Jesus said: 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'

C. Alleluia

GOSPEL READING

John 14: 15-21

The promise of the Holy Spirit

AFTER THE GOSPEL READING

R: This is the gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ, raised to live forever.

GOSPEL PRAYER

R. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving us and sending the Spirit to help us Teach us to love you and one another.

C. Amen.

GOSPEL HYMN **AT 127 Because He Lives** (1 Verse sung twice)

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know he holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives.

MESSAGE:

We are not orphaned

John 14:15-21

Grace and peace to you from our Father through the resurrected Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

According to St John's Gospel Jesus spent his last evening after the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, to deliver his Farewell Speech to his disciples, which are the Gospel readings for last Sunday, today and next Sunday. From last Sunday's Gospel reading, we heard Jesus' speaking of his 'going' and 'coming'. He said to his disciples "...if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. (14:3)."

Continuing from the same speech, in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is talking more about his coming (v.18), a coming in the near future after his death, his resurrection and his ascension. He will be present in his love, his Word, but above all, in the person of the Holy Spirit, whom we will welcome and celebrate in two weeks' time on the Pentecost Day.

So, this Sunday is very important in our faith life. Firstly, it is a great preparation for us to understand the third person of the Godhead—the Holy Spirit. Secondly, it is a great preparation for us to foretaste the love flowed from and within the Holy Trinity- Father, Son and the Spirit, so that we may celebrate the Trinity Sunday in three weeks' time. Look the feast God prepares for us in our worship! Praise the Lord.

My sermon today is based on one of passage from the Farewell Speech when Jesus comforted his disciples saying, "I will not leave you orphaned, I am coming to you (v.18)." Let us pray: Lord God, thank you for your heartfelt promise. Sanctify us in truth, your Word is the truth. Amen.

When Jesus determined to go to Jerusalem to die on the Cross, he knew that his disciples will be scattered, like children lost their parents and sheep lost their shepherd. So, he used an image to illustrate his care and love to the disciples.

Orphan! What a touching word in human life. Comparing to childhood, which should be a very normal and happy experience to most of us, orphanhood is totally a strange experience. All the attributes of being bereaved, abandoned, defenceless, unprotected, vulnerable, and even miserable can be related on this single identity – orphanhood. I don't know how long is the history of orphan existing in human society, but I know it always comes with war, disease, famine, natural disasters and human tragedies.

All of these bad things make us frustrated and sad. Sometimes, as Christians, we feel like orphans living in this fallen and corrupted world, especially when things are getting worse and we are lacking enough support and care. Things like self-isolation at home during the days of the Coronavirus pandemic. Or maybe you live in an environment that your Christian belief is not valued and welcome by others, making you feel isolated like an orphan. In summary, being orphaned is not a pleasant experience.

When Jesus spoke the word of "orphan," his focus is to comfort and encourage his soon to be bereaved, scared, and isolated disciples. Because that is only one day before his crucifixion when he was speaking all of this.

But such comforting Gospel message is apparently framed by law. In the opening verse Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." And at the closing verse Jesus said again, "They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me." Someone might quickly move their focus to a self-examination, asking "Do I love Jesus and keep his commandments?" Then they found themselves in an uncomfortable position. Indeed, this is a long lasting struggle for many Christians. But this is really not the major issue in Jesus' loving heart toward us.

In fact, what he asked his disciples to do is exactly what he was doing. When Jesus set his face like flint to go to Jerusalem to follow the Father's will to die on the Cross, he was showing his total love to the Father by his total obedience - painfully but willingly. Imagine the Heavenly Father says to Jesus, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." And then the Son handed himself over to be hanged on the cross, because that is the Father's commandments in order to save the sinners like you and me who did not love God at all before he redeemed us from sin in our baptism.

So, the Biblical truth always is that God loved us first, in the way of the Son's sacrificial love to the Father, in order to generate the Gospel power to energize our willingness of keeping God's commandments.

Jesus knows our vulnerability like orphans and our inability of totally loving God. So, he did not ask us to keep his commandments by our own power, but by the help of God in the person of the Holy Spirit. That's why he immediately offered a great promise, saying "... I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever."

That is the key Gospel promise for today. We are not loving God by keeping His Commandments by our own strength but by the help of the Holy Spirit - as Jesus introduced, "another Advocate" (v.16).

Advocate, or Consellor, or Paraclete according to different translations, is a title for the Holy Spirit. It is from the Greek word *paracletos* (παράκλητος), means helper, encourager, or legal assistant who is to comfort, to warn, to admonish, exhort, or advice.

But why Jesus calls him "another Advocate?" Thanks be to God because we have the first Advocate already – our Savior, our Redeemer Jesus Christ himself – so the second Advocate is counted as another one. He is to be a substitute for Jesus' earthly presence. He is the Spirit of truth (v.17). He teaches Christ and so leads to him who is the truth (v.6).

Eventually we discover from today's Gospel that not just *another* person of God comes to live in us and comfort us, but three. First, as Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit abides with us, and he will be in us, and to be with us forever (vv.16,17); then *another* person of God, the Son, Jesus Christ Himself comes and dwells in us, as he said "I will not leave you orphaned, I am coming to you" (v.18); then still *another* person of God, the Heavenly Father comes as Jesus further promised in verse 23, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

Here comes the second Gospel promise for today – the Divine Trinity and the mystical indwelling of the three Persons in One God, a trinitarian promise. Are we orphaned in the world helplessly and defencelessly? Not at all! Are we required to keep God's commandments by our own strength? Not at all! We have three persons in One God being with us since we have been baptized and abiding with us forever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray: Holy Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer. Because of your love to the Father and your obedience to the Father's commandment we are saved and loved by God. Thank you for interceding for us, and coming to us in the Person of the Holy Spirit together with the Holy Father. Help us to live as God's children with pure and fervent love toward you, gladly and willingly to keep your commandments by your help and forgiveness. Amen.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

NICENCE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING SONG

AT 177 Love one another

Chorus

Love one another, love one another,
Care for each other;
Love one another, as I have loved you all.

1/3

When I go, you will look for Me,
When I go, you will wonder.

2/3

If you love you are friends of Mine:
If you love you're My children.

When I go, you will look for Me;
But I won't be gone, you will see
Me when you: (*Chorus*)

If you love you are friends of Mine;
Everyone will know I am with you
when you: (*Chorus*)

3/3

Love your friends, love your enemies,
Anytime, anybody.
Love your friends, love your enemies;
In this mystery you are loving Me, so: (*Chorus*)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

C. Heavenly Father, you have loved us and given us your Spirit to live within us.
Help us, through your Spirit, to do your will and show your love to others. Amen

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*P. Jesus promises that we are not left as orphans, but that he comes with his
Father through his Spirit to make his home with us. Let us pray that God bless
our homes with his healing presence.*

Heavenly Father: thank you for the wonderful blessings you have given us,
including our earthly families, and our spiritual family, the church. Thank you too
for the psalms of praise. Make us thankful, and teach us to overflow with joyful
praise.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church, the bride of Christ, that it may be like a mother to all who
seek God's help. Help us to grow in confidence as we witness to others through
our own psalms of praise, so that we will draw many to you.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all parents, grandparents and guardians. Move them to care for their
children properly, and help them bring up their children to know, love and serve
you. Comfort couples who would like to have children, and those who desire to be
mothers but whose prayer has not been answered. Give hope to parents who have
lost their children, or been denied access to them.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for children who have been separated from their families, especially those
who are in refugee camps and do not know if other family members are alive or of
their whereabouts. Give them the support they need through the various aid
agencies and help them to be reunited with loved ones where possible.

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Meet the needs of those who are sick, facing surgery or recovering from surgery.
In particular we pray for Pastor Noel Noack and others whom we now name in our
hearts...

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

God of new life, you provide us with the care and nurture we need to grow as your newborn children. May your Son Jesus Christ come to us, so that in him we may live together with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE CALL TO PRAISE

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts

♪ WE LIFT OUR HEARTS

1/4

We lift our hearts with joy,
We lift them to the Lord.
We give you thanks, our God,
For that is right and good.

2/4

Yes, it is truly good,
Our duty and delight,
That we should everywhere
And at all times give thanks.

3/4

And so we thank You now,
Our holy Father, Lord,
Eternal, mighty God,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

4/4

With all the angels, then,
with saints throughout all time,
We praise Your wondrous name,
Adore you evermore.

♪ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
You fill all of heaven and earth save us, God on high!
Let us praise the One who comes in the name of God.
Praise! Praise! Praise! Praise!
Praise to You on high!

PRAYER

P. Gracious Father, we remember the sacrifice of our Lord in our faith, as we remember His body and blood with bread and wine. We rejoice that we have received all He has done for us in his life and death, His resurrection and ascension; and we wait for His coming again to share with us the heavenly feast which will last forever and never can be stopped.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we who once have received the body and blood of Christ may live as true members of the body of your Son.

C. AMEN

♪ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
Your name be kept holy
Your kingdom come,

Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
And give us this day
Our bread for today.
Forgive our sins as we
Forgive all those who sin against us.
And help us when tempted,
And save us from evil.
For the kingdom, power, and praise are Yours forever.
Amen.

PEACE

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C:AMEN

P. Let us praise the Lamb of God:

LAMB OF GOD

1/3	2/3	3/3
Jesus, Lamb of God, You take away our sin: Have mercy on us, Lord.	Jesus, Lamb of God, You take away our sin: Have mercy on us, Lord.	Jesus, Lamb of God You take away our sin: Give us your peace. Amen.

SONG

LHS 846 **The candles are lit and the table is laid**

1/5	2/5
The candles are lit and the table is laid; everything's set to begin: parents and children, and husbands and wives, brothers and sisters and friends.	The words that are spoken are simple but true, 'This is my body and blood'; here is forgiveness for all your sins, here is the promise of God.

Refrain

Here we meet you once again,
God of mercy, God of grace,
taste your love in bread and wine,
we meet you face to face.

3/5	4/5
The candles are lit and the table is laid; God's invitation says `Come!' Come, all is ready, our host is at hand, Father, and Spirit, and Son.	No need to be anxious, or troubled with fear, Jesus turns no one away; If your need healing, or comfort, or strength, come to this table today.

Refrain

5/5

We're free from our sin and we're free from our death,
free from the chains of the past;
free to be lovers and givers and friends,
free to be people at last!

Refrain

SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood once strengthened and preserved you in body and soul will keep you in faith today unto life eternal. Go† in peace.

C: Amen

PRAYER

C: Almighty and merciful God, by the gift we have received in the Holy sacrament, may we produce the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

♪THE BLESSING

C. The grace of Jesus Christ The love of God the Father The Holy Spirit's fellowship be with us all. Amen

P. The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; The Lord look upon you with favor † and give you peace.

C. Amen.

SONG

LHS 296 Here I am, Lord

Chorus

Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night;
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

1/3

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and
sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

2/3

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my work to them.
Whom shall I send?

3/3

I, the Lord of wind and flame,

I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts are satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

DISMISSAL

L. Go in peace; watching for the coming of the Lord.
C. Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Praise the Lord for His grace and mighty protection over this period of pandemic.
- 2. 12th July is our date aiming at resuming our public worship.**
3. All fellowship groups if less than 10 people are considering resuming now.
4. Should you any testimony about God's grace during your self-isolation please tell the Elders or Pastor Jing.
5. Should you have suggestion to the church regarding future congregational life and worship, please write or speak to the Elders or Pastor Jing.
6. Volunteers are still needed for helping future church activities.
7. Offerings:

Your congregational bank account:

1. Ropeley church: NAB Gatton. BSB 084-657
Account number 508724245
- Lockrose church: NAB Lowood. BSB 084-780
Account number 508809759
- Laidley Church: NAB Laidley. BSB 084-771
Account number 492460969

Special prayers for these people in need of good Health

Brooke Kirkwood, Gwen Diете, Joan and Alex Body, Ann Rickuss, Marlene Staatz, Grace Norman, Pastor Noel Noack.

Baptism Anniversary

During May we remember the following child on the anniversary of their Baptism in our prayer: Saxon LENDRUM, son of Josephine and Shane, and brother to Savannah

CONTACTS

<p>Pastor Jing Luan 21 Patrick Street, Laidley Work 5465 1254 Mobile 0424 939 385 Email: jing.luan@lca.org.au</p> <p>LVLP Parish Chairperson: Ian Rickuss 0417 728 392 Email: alr_air@yahoo.com.au</p> <p>Congregation Chairman: Laidley Ross Steinhardt 0412 651 490 Lockrose Donald Bichel 0419 483 524 Ropeley Ross Wessling 5462 1453</p> <p>Tabeel Chaplian: Rosie Boughen 0431 822 068</p> <p>Faith Lutheran College Office: 5466 9900 Peace Lutheran School Office: 5462 0700</p> <p>Funeral Catering Laidley: Shirley Klinge 0457 610 457 Ropeley: Robyn Dodt 5462 2062</p>	<p>General Catering: Laidley Doreen Pitman 5465 6469/ 0438 665 301</p> <p>Hall Bookings: Redeemer: 0457 610 457 Ropeley: 5462 7184</p> <p>LLL Representative: Bernie Muller 5465 1268 Secretary: Gloria Weier: 5465 1704</p> <p>Tabeel Lutheran Age Care: 5466 8300</p> <p>Christian Radio Station Vision 87.6FM Voice 92.9 FM Anything to be added to the Bulletin by 9am every Thursday Please contact:</p> <p>Ashleigh Steinhardt Email: lvlp.laidley@gmail.com Mobile: 0439 718 792</p>
---	--

NEXT SUNDAY (24th May 2020)

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Leading: Pastor Jing Luan

Musician: Amy Vayro

Reader: Bernie Muller

Text:

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14 *Waiting in prayer for the Spirit*

Psalm: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 *Suffering as a Christian*

Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11 *Jesus prays for his disciples in the world*

Your offering is part of your Worship
and is presented to God through the prayer

Ropeley Lutheran Church: NAB Gatton BSB 084-657 Account number 508724245

Lockrose Lutheran Church: NAB Lowood BSB 084-780 Account number 508809759

Laidley Redeemer Church: NAB Laidley. BSB 084-771 Account number 492460969